

George Nelson
Sunshine Homes Interview
Team: Jamie, Erikka, Austin

George Nelson told us that when he was growing up, school started at eight in the morning, and ended at four. He had to walk a couple of miles to get to Lyons Elementary. He took his seat in a class of 17 students. There were usually only around 68 students in the whole school. George sat close to the pot-bellied stove, which was a privilege, and a burden. School was very different back then. There was very little homework assigned, considering it was done by the light of a kerosene lantern. They didn't get off from school for spring break, only for Christmas and Thanksgiving. In high school you could play football, baseball, or track. In football there were no face guards on the helmets.

The economy has changed quite a bit since George was a child. Back then, you were doing fine if you were \$.50 at your job. During the early 1940's gas was about \$.15 per gallon. But once people came up with bottled water at \$1 per bottle, the price of fuel shot up because oil drillers thought it was more work to drill oil. Back then when the milk man would bring milk bottles (4 quart bottles at a time) milk would cost about \$.10 or \$.15 per gallon. Also then, houses were much smaller. In fact, George's first house was only \$500! This was because there was no electricity or insulation. One way that families saved money was by sending their kids to work.

In his family, George had six brothers and one sister, they were pretty spread apart because George was leaving his house by the time his sister was born. George's first job, when he was seven or eight, was working in a hay field. He worked sun up to sun down and made two dollars a day. What he choose to spend his money on was his first suit. He had to shop by catalog, since there weren't any stores. His suit was \$4.95.

During the thirties, when the Great Depression and Dust Bowl took place, the economy didn't seem so great. There wasn't always enough food and there was dust everywhere. During 1934, George was playing in the yard when he saw what he thought was a black storm cloud. It was really a cloud of ravenous grasshoppers!

George liked to go to the drive in theater in his spare time. He had a '94 Chrysler and his parents had a '34 Chevrolet. Once, George and his friend filled up a dump truck with trash. They drove down Main street and dumped the garbage right in the middle of Main street. But they got caught, and of course they had to clean up the trash. They also spent a little of time in the jail, just to scare them a bit. Then once he was playing outside when he saw five tornado tails dropping from the sky. He ran in and told his mother, and

they watched the tornados. They never touched the ground. George Nelson is a great person, we enjoyed visiting with him.